



# 11HC, USANATO BDE SOLDIER FAMILY READINESS GROUP (SFRG)

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2006

Fall - Winter Issue

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Christmas

## Introduction

Greeting and salutations to everyone assigned to this wonderful unit! My name is SFC Erich Stemmerding and I have recently arrived here in Belgium to work as the Senior Engineer Technician under the G4. If you haven't come by my office yet, please feel free to stop by and share a cup of coffee with me. I will try my best to publish a timely newsletter each quarter to remind you of all that has happened and to give you a heads up on what's coming up around the bend. I hope everyone had a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season and that 2007 brings many more blessings and joyful memories.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Events

I have tried to research and get as much information on past events since the last newsletter and ask that you forgive me if I left anything or anyone out. Special thanks go out to Frank Gunn and his picture database to aid me in my task. Unfortunately for me, I missed the "Lord of the Wings" competition which took place in October, which brought many talented chefs out of their offices and homes to win bragging rights for Who's-Who when it comes to chicken wings. Taking home 1<sup>st</sup> Place was G3's very own SFC Parris, SFC Delgado, and SSG Radock with their "Korean wings". In close 2<sup>nd</sup> were Chaplain Lembke and his faithful "Blues Wings". 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Thelma of G6 with her "Breaded Wings". Just looking at the pictures makes my mouth water and I'm waiting with anticipation for the next opportunity to get my hands on some of those wings.



Halloween brought out many spooky monsters and creatures in seek of candy and with everyone's participation, they were not left empty-handed. The SHAPE community provided a safe environment to get our children out there and have some fun while filling up their baskets and bags with all kinds of goodies and treats. There was also a competition for best decorative theme and although everyone's hard work and festive spirit provided much entertainment for every visitor, Finance took the prize with their Disney Theme. A pumpkin carving contest held in building 208 produced many intriguing pumpkins including one that closely resembled CPT Thapith. The 1<sup>st</sup>

# Your SFRG Family



## President:

Mrs. Rose Gunn

## Secretary:

Mrs. Jessica Stemmerding

## Treasurer:

Mr. Ernie Shelton

## Liaison:

SPC Sarah Bearden

## HHC Brigade Advisors:

Mrs. Liz Woolverton

Mrs. Teresa Tull

## Public Relations:

SFC Erich Stemmerding

## SFRG email:

hhcsfrg@usanato.army.mil



## Promotions:

LTC Wegner

CW4 Ladra

MAJ Thapith

SFC Walker

SSG Fisher

SSG Choulee

SGT Christian

SGT Guzman

(Send your Promotions to have them included here)



Place pumpkin however was awarded to MSG Harris of G6 with a very nice carving of a wicked witch pumpkin with green glowing eyes.



Thanks to all who participated in the events and helped make this past Halloween one to remember.

As we all know, November is the month to give thanks and there are so many things to be thankful for. The units Thanksgiving

Potluck Dinner was held at the Maisieres and not only did it include all the trimmings for a magnificent feast for all to enjoy, but it was complimented with the encouraging music of "Faith in Action" a well known local band from our community. We also got a chance to surprise CPT Thapith and Mamma Thapith with some farewell gifts and parting words. Her and her family will be greatly missed!



December began with the Company Change of Command. Passing of the colors from CPT Thapith to CPT Pearce can be seen on the left. Please extend a hearty welcome to our new commander and his family and pray for the Thapith's as they move on to their new unit and continue to do wonderful things.

Thanks for all the help and patience during all the change of command inventories.

The Christmas party held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December was a big hit. Holiday cheer was high and the food was superb. Thank you for bringing out your dishes and for all your contributions, big and small, to help make this Christmas a memorable one. There was a table decorating contest in which sections competed to earn points towards the Spirit award. All who participated really did an excellent job, but the first place award went to HHC. Fun and entertainment was readily available in the



form of Music from "Faith in Action", a white elephant gift exchange, and a special appearance from Santa himself who brought all the children their very own gifts. The Door decorating contest truly showed that just about every office in the unit was in the festive spirits this Christmas. The G2/3's sections door took first place but every door in the unit looked awesome and we thank every one of you for your participation and presentations. The new champions and holders of the Spirit Cup for the 2006 Holiday Season is G2/3. Congratulations everyone!!!



## Hails:

CPT Pearce (HHC CDR)  
SFC Stemmerding (G4)

(Send your Hails to have them included here)

## Farewells:

MAJ Thapith (HHC CDR)  
SFC Fransisco (G1)  
SSG Irvine (HHC)

(Send your Farewells to have them included here)

## Birthdays of the Quarter:

SSG Bates, 2 Oct  
CW3 Batton, 6 Oct  
SFC Wilkerson, 10 Oct  
SFC Guildry, 17 Oct  
SSG Lacey, 27 Oct  
MAJ Mitchell, 28 Oct  
SGT Winters, 31 Oct  
1SG Payton, 1 Nov  
SGM Baudoinjoux, 23 Nov  
SFC McCarthy-Parris, 25 Nov  
SSG Maxwell, 28 Nov  
CPT Pierce, 28 Nov  
CPT Suh, 28 Nov  
SFC Howerton-Thompkin, 30 Nov  
SFC Allen, 5 Dec  
SGT Fisher, 8 Dec  
SPC Villarreal, 13 Dec  
SFC Comer, 20 Dec  
SGT Seibel, 31 Dec

## Upcoming Birthdays

COL Woolverton, 1 Jan  
SSG Bonds, 3 Jan  
SFC Stemmerding, 9 Jan  
SPC Myers, 12 Jan  
CW4 Berlanga, 23 Jan  
SGT Christian, 31 Jan  
SGT Matos, 1 Feb  
SGT Mallon, 17 Feb  
SPC Bearden, 22 Feb  
SSG Gregg, 24 Feb  
SSG Fanning, 27 Feb  
SSG Chevalier, 1 Mar  
SSG Morton, 1 Mar  
SFC Dockery, 2 Mar  
SFC Borne, 6 Mar  
SSG Brown, 9 Mar  
SFC Delgado, 15 Mar  
SGT Raver, 15 Mar  
SSG Weems, 20 Mar  
LTC Lembke, 24 Mar  
SPC Peterson, 28 Mar  
SGT Whitfield, 29 Mar



Seen above is Faith in Action playing music during the unit Christmas party.

## Individual Recognitions

Many deserving personnel have been entrusted with greater responsibilities over the last few months and have been promoted to the next grade. If you were promoted recently and were not named in this newsletter, please except my Congratulations as well and I apologize for leaving you out. Continue to strive for that next grade and seek positions of greater responsibilities.



If you see any of these high-speed soldiers, be sure to congratulate them on their well deserved promotion if you haven't already done so!

## Hails & Farewells

A thought for all.. As soldiers come and go within our unit, we should all try and keep them in our thoughts. If there is anything that we can do to help out these soldiers in their time of transition, believe me, it can really go a long way. For instance, staying at the Maisieres can be a trying and stressfull time for family's and soldiers who are temporarily residing there. Many organizations have events there to help out with meals (other than cold cereal and bagels) and these meals can really make someones day when your options are limited, especially for incoming soldiers and their families who may not even have transportation yet. I will never forget those who took time to help out when we were new and "stuck" at the Maisieres. Take the time to stop by a new soldiers workplace and introduce



#### January 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

#### February 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

#### March 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### April 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

yourself and try to make them feel welcome. Personnel that are leaving no longer have their stuff and we should take care of them as well and help to make their final days here in Belgium as comfortable as we can. Perhaps you too can be a blessing for someone in 2007.

## Additional Good to Know Information:

**Crime Prevention Tip:** There has been a recent advisory to warn all personnel of vehicle break-ins and theft at the railway stations in Soignies and Mons. Remember you Shapien plates make your vehicle a target for this kind of activity, and you should consider having a friend drop you off at the train station and pick you up if possible. If a friend is not available, perhaps the bus would be a safe option. If you must leave your car at the station, try parking in well lit areas where is can be clearly observed by others and be sure to remove all valuable items from plain view. Whatever you do, please take additional precautions to avoid theft or damage to you personal property and vehicle when traveling by train in the future. For more crime prevention tips contact the SHAPE Crime Reduction Officer at 423-3727.

**Benelux Head-start Class:** USAG Benelux Education Center on SHAPE combines French language instruction with information about Belgium, its history, geography, and culture. It also provides survival tips and practical information about living in Belgium. A trip on the last day gives participants an opportunity to practice newly acquired language skills. The class also includes Newcomers Brief where information about programs and services offered on base is provided. The class is mandatory for all U.S. service members, but all others are more than **welcome** to attend. If you want to join the next class contact the USAG Benelux Education Center at 423-3466.

## Upcoming Events:

- 11 JAN 07 - COR Ceremony for 1SG Roth and MSG Frankhouser
- 11 JAN 07 - Vehicle Inspections Due for 3-Day Holiday
- 12 JAN 07 - Minimum manning day for Martin Luther King Holiday
- 15 JAN 07 - Training Holiday (Martin Luther King Holiday)
- 18 JAN 07 - APFT
- 22 JAN 07 - Weapons Range
- 25 JAN 07 - Family Bingo Night @ School Cafeteria, Early Bird game begins at 1830 hrs, Child and Adult prizes per game, Plan to eat there
- 01 FEB 07 - NCO/SOQ Board

## Our Next Meeting

Our next SFRG meeting is on **6 FEB 07 @ 1030hrs**. Meeting's are held in the conference room in bldg 208. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there. Should you have any items of interest please contact one of the members of the SFRG Family and we will be sure to include your item.

*If you would like something included in this newsletter send me and email at [erich.stemmerding@usanato.army.mil](mailto:erich.stemmerding@usanato.army.mil)*